

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe I am the an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled LINEAR COMPRESSION LATCH, the specification of which is filed herewith.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified patent specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, and which is material to the examination of this application, namely, information where there is a substantial likelihood that a reasonable Examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International Application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and I have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT International Application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed. Such applications have been filed as follows:

| COUNTRY | APPLICATION NUMBER | DATE OF FILING (day, month, year) | PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 37 C.F.R. 119 |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

| APPLICATION NUMBER | DATE OF FILING (day, month, year) |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 60/228,726 | 27 August 2000 |

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) or § 365(c) of any PCT International application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35 United States Code, § 112, first paragraph, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a), namely, information where there is substantial likelihood that a reasonable Examiner would consider it important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

| PRIOR UNITED STATES APPLICATIONS OR PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE UNITED STATES FOR BENEFIT UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 120 | | | | | |
|---|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| U.S. APPLICATIONS | | | STATUS (check one) | | |
| U.S. Application No. | U.S. filing date | | Patented | Pending | Abandoned |
| | | | | | |
| PCT Appln. No. | PCT filing date | U.S. Serial No. assigned | | | |
| | | | | | |

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and to transact all business with the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with this therewith:

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| | Reg. No. | | Reg. No. |
| James C. McConnon | 18,030 | Ourmazd S. Ojan | 38,065 |
| John F. McNulty | 23,028 | Joseph J. DiDonato | 48,897 |
| Alex R. Sluzas | 28,669 | | |

Address all telephone calls to Alex Sluzas at 215-568-4900.

11/11/2000 10:00:00

Address all correspondence to Paul & Paul, 2900 Two Thousand Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Full name of first inventor: | Thomas Welsh |
| Inventor's signature: | _____ |
| Date: | _____ |
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| Full name of third inventor: | Richard C. Saile |
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